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>NICARAGUA/CIA>BROKAW: In another part of Washington today, the House >MANUAL>Intelligence Committee finished its investigation on that CIA manual that instructed Nicaragua rebels to kill Nicaraguan government officials. The committee said the CIA was guilty of breaking the law, but it was all unintentional. Lee McCarthy reports tonight it was not a good day for the director of the spy agency.

MCCARTHY: CIA Director William Casey told the House Intelligence Committee that publication of the manual had been mismanaged by the agency, that none of the top officials, Casey included, had seen the manual before it was given to the rebels. That shocked the committee chairman. REP. EDWARD BOLAND (D-Mass.): I find it incredible, as did all the members of the Intelligence Committee, that no one, that no one in the field and no one at headquarters had ever read the manual.

MCCARTHY: And Boland rejected Casey's claim that the manual does not recommend murdering Nicaraguan officials. BOLAND: ...and the majority of us came to the conclusion that 'neutralize' was a, was a word that one could, could suggest assassination.

MCCARTHY: Casey maintained that the manual was designed only to moderate excesses committed by the rebels in Nicaragua, but some congressmen say it was intended to the aid the rebels in overthrowing the Nicaraguan government, an act specifically prohibited by law. REP. WYCHE FOWLER (D-Ga.): A majority of the committee did find that there had been a violation of the law of the land, as embodied in the Boland amendment, in the production and distribution of this manual.

MCCARTHY: A majority of the committee also said the CIA did not have adequate command and control of the Nicaraguan operation. Casey played the good soldier today, but New York Sen. Moynihan was not impressed.

SEN. DANIEL MOYNIHAN (D-N.Y.): I wonder if he wouldn't stop doing things he has to apologize for later on.

MCCARTHY: Violation of the Boland amendment carries no penalties. The Democrats on the Intelligence Committee are simply using the manual to help build public and congressional opinion against covert operations in Nicaragua. Lee McCarthy, NBC News, at the U.S. Capitol.